major rivers of the country. Under the programme, pollution abatement schemes such as interception and diversion of municipal sewage and its treatment, low cost sanitation, crematoria, river front development and afforestation etc are. envisaged. The memorandum of understanding for bio-lateral cooperation signed recently with the Austrian Govenment does not include specific projects for cleaning of the rivers.

Shifting of foreign polluting units to India

1022. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some foreign companies have shifted/propose to shift their polluting units to India; and

(b) if so, what precautionary measures have been taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTTY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) The Ministry of Environment has no specific information on any foreign company sifting or proposing to shift their polluting units to India.

(b) Tha Government of lndia issued a noli. fication on 27-01-1994 under Section 3 of the environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The notification identified 29 activities for which prior environmental clearance is required subject to certain conditions.

Forest land under Nining in Aravali Hills

1023. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that according to official statistics over one lakh hectare of forest land in the Aravali hills is under mining;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the deforestation caused by mining activities is hastening desertification in the area; and

(c) If so, what steps Government intend to take to rectify the situation and prevent further devastation of the environment and of the delicate ecological balance of the area ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) The exact extent of the forest land in the Aravali hills under mining has not been demarcated.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As per the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act. 1980, non forestry works including mining can be done in forest land only after obtaining prior approval of the Central Government. After receipt of formal proposals from the State Government the same are examined carefully to assess the effect of mining on the ecology of the area including on flora and fauna and afterwards final decision is taken. While approving such projects under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, appropriate environmental safeguards including raising of compensatory aforestation are stipulated to minimiseadverse impact of loss offorest on the ecology of the area. Further a notification under Environment (Protection) Acr, 1986 has been issued on 7th May, 1992 regulating *inter alia* mining in specific areas of Aravali Range in Gurgaon District of Haryana and Alwar District of Rajasthan. Moreover to check desertification and to restore ecological status of the area, two afforestation schemes namely "Aforestation in Aravali Hills, Rajasthan" and "Rehabilitation of Common Lands in the Aravalis, Haryana" are being implemented.

Cleanance of environmental Projects in Andhra Pradesh

1024. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state.

(a) the details of projects of Andhra Pradesh which are pending for environmental clearance ;

(b) since when these projects are pending; and

(c) What steps are being taken to clear these projects with details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (c) A statement is enclosed indicating list of projects pending, dates of receipt and the reasons for pendency *(See* below). Projects can be assessed and processed only after receipt of complete data and action plans. Continuous interaction is maintained with the State Government/Project authorities to facilitate expeditious disposal of cases,

Statement

Status of pending Projects as on 21-2-1994

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Date of Receipt	Reasons for pendency
1	Sri Sailam Left Bank Canal Project.	December, 93	Considered by the Committee and additional information sought for received recently.
2	Lime stone Mine attached to Tandur Cement plant of Cement Corporation of India.	March 93	Considered by the Committee clarification awaited.
3	Manuguru Shaft Block-I Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd. (SCCL)	January, 93	Do.
4	Manuguru OCP-IV SCCL.	March, 93	Recommended by Expert Committee linked to Forestry clearance.

Environmental aspects of the reliance petrochemicals Ltd., Gujarat

1025. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD :
SHRI CHATURANAN!} MISHRA :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the public interest litigations (PIL) filed in the Gujarat High Court challenging the environmental aspects of the proposed Reliance Petrochemicals Ltd. refinery project at Jamnagar district of Saurashtra region in Gujarat; and

(b) If so, what are the details thereof and Union Government's stand on the project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Writ Petitions filed in the High Court of Gujarat against the proposed refinery are under consideration of the Hon'ble Court. Government have not yet taken a decision in the matter as the requisite environmental impact assessment and other related reports required for environmental clearance of the project in question are still under preparation.

देश में रेगिस्तान के प्रसार को रोकने के लिए किये गये उपाय

1026. **श्री सुन्दर सिंह भण्डारी :** क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) देश में रेगिस्तान को फैलने से रोकने के लिए पिछले तीन वर्षों में किये गये प्रयासों का ब्यौरा क्या है और ये प्रयास कहां-कहां किये गये हैं और इन प्रयासों पर कितनी धनराशि व्यय की गई है ;

(ख) इस संबंध में अंतर्राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर क्या प्रयास किये जा रहे हैं ; और

(ग) रेगिस्तान के प्रसार को रोकने हेतु भारतीय विशेषज्ञों ने क्या सुझाव दिये हैं ?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय के राज्यमंत्री (श्री कमल नाथ) : (क) भारत सरकार रेगिस्तान पारि-प्रणाली के अवक्रमण को रोकने के लिए अनेक कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वित कर रही है । इसमें शामिल हैं--मरुस्थल विकास कार्यक्रम, सूखा प्रवण क्षेत्र कार्यक्रम और वानिकी विकास कार्यक्रम । वर्तमान में क्रमशः जापान